

tralia, 4th edn., 1967, p.415) give a summary of previous records. On January 24, 1973, towards dusk, I saw one individual perched on a power line on the coast road to Rockingham, directly opposite the lead into the quarantine station at Woodmans Point.

—A. G. MATHEWS, South Perth.

Another Record of the Antarctic Fulmar from the South Coast.—On January 28, 1973 on the ocean beach a half a mile east of the mouth of the Warren River Mr. John Ingram and I noticed a moderate sized white gull-like bird, in a mummified form, on the strand line. However its beak revealed it as a petrel. The head was removed and the bird was identified later as an Antarctic Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialisoides*, of which there are only three previous records known from Western Australia. The head is now in the collection of the Western Australian Museum (registered No. A 12297). The exposed culmen was 42.8 mm.

—GILBERT PFITZNER, Gooseberry Hill.

A Western Silvereye with a Deformed Bill.—A Silvereye (*Zosterops gouldi*) with a deformed bill was caught in a mist net in my garden on 1st May 1971. The bird was caught with other members of a small flock that had been feeding from bait trays in our backyard banding station. When the bird was removed from the net it was found to have an elongated lower mandible which twisted downward to the left. Close inspection did not reveal any sign of injury to account for the deformity.



Fig. 1.—Silvereye with deformed bill.

In general appearance the bird was untidy with the body plumage unkempt and dull. Dry white flakes were evident on body and head. The tail feathers were bedraggled and bore traces of excreta. The condition of the plumage indicated the bird's inability to preen itself.

The preen gland was examined and this appeared to be distended and inflamed, measuring 6.5 mm. x 4.7 mm. Examination of skull ossification indicated that the bird was immature, with additional data as follows: Bill length, from the junction of the upper mandible and skull, 12.0 mm.; lower mandible, 15.0 mm.; tarsus, 20.0 mm.; wing, 56.0 mm.; tail, 46.0 mm.; weight, 9.9 gm.

After examining the bird I marked the back with a red patch, applied with a spirit pen, hoping that this would enable further observation should it return to our garden. The bird was then released, 4 hours after capture.

No further sightings were made until one week later when on 8th May, the bird was recaptured in the garden, this time in a baited "walk-in" trap. The redmark that I had applied was so inconspicuous as to be useless as a field mark.

Examination of the body plumage again revealed dry flakes among the feathers. Although untidy in general appearance the bird seemed to be in good health. The ability to feed did not seem to be impaired by the deformity of the beak for the weight had increased to 10.2 gm. This increase can be accounted for by the fact that the bird had obviously been feeding at bait trays in the garden for there were still traces of food on the bill.

From previous observations carried out on the movement of silvereyes in our garden and from the recapture of banded birds it is evident that small groups of these birds regularly attend the feeding trays, perhaps daily. This would ensure a food source that could be exploited by a silver-eye with a deformity such as the one described. Maintenance of the plumage however, would be severely impaired and could lead to eventual deterioration of health. When caught the second time the bird's tail was more heavily soiled than before, and the preen gland was inspected and measured, the dimensions being 7.0 mm. x 4.5 mm.

The bird was released and has not been seen again.

—PERRY DE REBEIRA, Tuart Hill.

Masked Wood-Swallow in the Perth Area.—During the present century no ornithologist has reported mass movements of the Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*) in the environs of Perth, though J. R. Ford saw a single bird at Bibra Lake in October 1948 (*Emu*, 54: 213). The nearest record of a passage movement is by E. H. Sedgwick at Wooroloo, 28 miles E.N.E. of Perth in October 1951 (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 5, 1956: 68). There is in the W.A. Museum a young bird collected by J. T. Tunney about 1896-97 at Bannister, just over 60 miles from Perth on the Albany Road.

However in the *Western Australian Year Book for 1900-01* A. W. Milligan stated that it was "frequently to be seen about Perth, in the late spring." In my summary of the birds of the Swan River district (*Emu*, 47, 1948: 281) I made the following comment: "This statement is very wide of the mark, for no other observer has reported it anywhere on the coastal plain. Short of dismissing the record as an error, which it is difficult to do with such a distinctive bird and the repute of the observer, one must assume that Milligan attempted to generalise from the experience of one unusual season. He only arrived in Perth from Victoria in 1897 and had no local ornithological lore to guide him." From observations I made at Gooseberry Hill and Helena Valley in October 1972 this must undoubtedly be the explanation.

On October 13 I arrived at my cottage at The Knoll, Gooseberry Hill, 10 miles east of Perth at 9.40 a.m. and became aware of a massed twittering of small birds very high up. They were Masked Wood-Swallows. There were about 200 individuals in a discrete flock, moving to the south-east towards the Helena valley. They had evidently not been travelling south along the searp but had moved in from the coastal plain, striking the searp at Knoll Hill, which has an altitude of nearly 750 feet. At 9.55 a.m. a flock of 30-40 birds appeared. It was a fine, clear, calm day with a haze over the buildings in the city of Perth. On October 26 I was at the cottage at 4.30 p.m., and at 5 p.m. I heard the same concerted twittering high up. There was a big concentration of Masked Wood-Swallows, some at the limit of visibility without the use of field glasses. At 5.15 p.m. a similar party appeared. Altogether there were about 200 birds, and all were moving to the south-east and east.